

4-7-1939

## Notes: Lenten Address: Good Friday 1939

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I

## Memorandum

Good Friday  
1939

For

Father forgive them -

1. 1500 years ago - Bishop Ambrose - every preacher - seven short sentences - the Holy of holies of the plans of God for men -
2. We have come to watch a man die - we hang upon last words - carry them in remembering hearts - what does He say who is now dying?
3. Lightning - directly into the heart of all the troubles of men - up goes His feet under the crown of thorns - and the world ~~sees~~ a dying man point to the reason for death: "Father, forgive them, for -"
4. The word echoes back through the dark corridors of time - to a garden in the cool of the day - no stranger in Gethsemane on the Cross - or is it your name & mine - all of it in "Father forgive" -
5. The meaning? First - clearly & definitely - the terrible reality of sin - we can be sorry over it - weep over it - regret it - offer reparation - but one thing we cannot do - we cannot forgive our sin - and a voice comes whispering out of the long silence of the eternities - out of the noise & confusion of 2000 years "Father, forgive them -"
6. We have brought sinners into this Church - things we should like to forget - I can give you that - drying of your tears - relief from the heavy pain - those words are like a knife - "Father forgive them" - The point is buried in the bottomless sea of the pity of God -
7. An old legend - after the Cross - our Lord told Peter to preach - Peter remembering Good Friday -  
That way is open for you -

1939

# Memorandum

For

Today ~~thou~~ shalt be with Me in Paradise.

A few months ago a man died here in Chicago who had been fascinated by the person of the dying thing... Well he might be - the great example of the bread scattered from the burning - the all-embracing love of the Savior - here on Calvary - crossroad of the world - tonic for an individual soul - One was said -

11 A strange conversation - amid all the crying, <sup>weeping</sup> ~~weeping~~, knowing -  
suddenly a quiet voice "Lord, remember me" - a dying man  
asking a dying man to remember - And the answer came  
swift & sure, transforming darkness into light, "Today then?" -  
Who was the dying Man? No one knows - the usual story -  
bad company - an easy life - getting by - and now he was  
paying - drop by drop from his hands & feet - then lightning -  
this Man knew the way -

The moving humility of his prayer! Not forgiveness - not  
salvation - but only "Remember" - the old, old hallowed  
cry - the longing never to be stilled - even in another world -  
that someone "Remember" - no waiting - we suffer together

That someone "remember" - no waiting - we suffer together  
 "That then the answer: "Today" - there is a constant procession  
 of men & women on the road to Paradise - and that night  
 two figures joined them - He Who had built the road -  
 and He who had found it at the end of the Valley of  
 Sorrow - His voice "Father, I am coming home, bringing  
 a friend of mine with me - a thing" - If you want to  
 see how God works - The first soul purchased by the  
 red coins of redemption - marching as the escort of  
 the King of souls into Paradise is - a thing -  
 Life hark up - afraid & alone -

⑥ - Today! How often has He whispered - Yesterday morning -  
He said them in mercy to the dying thief and I pray  
God He will one day - No more shame - no more sorrow -  
the same hammer - smote the everlasting Doors - Before  
night came Jesus and the soul God had given them -  
The dying Saviour - the dying thief - good company - Victory

the strangely beautiful flower of his repentance -  
the God of Pity loans from his throne to place  
the clear whiteness of it and feed it with wisdom

Victory  
1. Over Fife  
2. Over death.

# Memorandum

Good Friday  
1939

For

Behold thy son! Behold thy Mother!

1. Young man "you priests speak about things you do not understand" - True - the first two words from the Cross sweep across heaven & earth, time and eternity - the first <sup>upward</sup> transforms the Cross into the flaming altar of the world's high priest "Father" - the second <sup>side</sup> - vestibule of heaven - "Today"
2. But the third - quivering with bound head - down to the earth <sup>near to</sup> - "understand" His feverish eye have searched the crowd - suddenly a few familiar figures - all women - on them His eye rests - and here - the Son of God - suspended - becomes for the last time the Son of Mary of Nazareth - he bends His head - "Woman"
3. You mothers who are here tonight <sup>to day</sup> can understand these words better than I - Perhaps Mary's thoughts - holy night - childhood - Simon's sword - thorns round his brow were a circle of flame about her heart - & the pain of her motherhood - the agony - the dark years - He saw "Woman"
4. Some important lessons! The Cross here reaches down into the small things of life - last will & testament - Here on Calvary - wounds - sorrow of the world - If this word had never been spoken, we should not have missed it - And yet there it is - and in a flash - the Christian religion is not only a religion of great churches - On the Cross He remembered His mother - and so He remembers the business man - the wife - the child - His love may storm the gates of heaven, but it also passes itself into every corner of life - And so tonight - every passage -

X "I have grown weary of reason work"

For

My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?

1. Several months ago - Mr. X. - "Won't someone please tell me who I am? I do not want to spend my remaining years alone" - directly into the greatest problem - loneliness - how often in tears - in hidden corners - like children crying in the night -
2. Our greatest 20th century problem - loneliness - strange - all our speed - great cities - communication - but they are walls - why the popping corn & drinking glasses - St. Vincent Millay - "Man has never quite been the same"
3. And then we look back - to Him - lonely that we might never be alone - the loneliest life ever lived - in the desert & mountain - in the crowd - the garden - the Cross - I have trodden the winepress alone - I am despised & rejected of men -
4. And here the climax - "My God" - in some strange way known only at the fruitless sea & shore - waves and billows rolling - day calling unto day - What happened? - a human being forsaken of God - the only time it ever happened - the ultimate loneliness -
5. And all this for only one reason - that you might never be alone again - always the sound of footsteps beside you - a hand in yours - company - the terror of the ultimate loneliness that you might never be forsaken of God - <sup>this noon</sup> Tenebrae -

~~"I have forsaken Thee, Thy Father."~~

(Hold Thou Thy Cross before)

my prayer: "O God, my King & my Savior, bow down mine ear - so that through the voices of angels & archangels - you may hear a lonely soul - "Hold Thou

Good Friday  
1939

For

I Thirst

1. Last three words in quick succession - the scene more quiet - the crowd awed into silence by the darkness and strange words - the Roman soldiers look on with indifference - suddenly - the first & last reflection of His physical suffering - "I thirst" - not even as much as in the garden - 1
2. Perhaps He thought for a moment - said that again - long ago - women at well in Samaria - living water - never fail - now He was bringing it to the world
3. I am not very proud of what happened then - <sup>someone better than</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>nothing</sup> - took a sponge - wet it with vinegar - held it up - the world's last offering to Him - humanity, gratefully brushes the lips of its God with vinegar -
4. Meaning? - His complete humanity - "For we have not an High Priest Which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities" - knows them all - not as God - but as our Savior Who has gone through them - made a path through them -
5. Profound & intimate connection between this & the other both, the absolute rightness, the profound wisdom of "Except ye become" - what do children - run to father mother - brown to, lost penny, cut finger - so we too - the brown pencil, brown hand, brown life - nothing is too small or unimportant to Him Who sees a sparrow fall - and here, as He was saving the world, was thirsty -
6. Can we not - symbolical meaning - His consuming thirst for the souls of men. I thirst - the Cross was the gift of all that God had, etc. - "I, if I be lifted" by all this agony - He raised it -
7. We were not there to give Him water - but at least quench His thirst for souls - Moody's Prayer -

VI

The last moment

## Memorandum

Good Friday  
1939

For

Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit -

1. One of the most interesting studies - how men have approached the fact of death - the great Shakespeare "Out, out brief candle" - Goethe - Anatole France -
2. But here - no protest - no crying - the most sublime death - in the great halls of heaven Cherubim & Seraphim wait for this - He is coming home - tall listless - all He has to show - our poor thing - but all the angels rejoice - long procession -
3. I have never seen another man die like that - When you and I die - but nothing like that for Him -
4. There were thousands who heard this wondering out - but only three - and tonight millions in all the Churches of Christendom - the percentage is about the same - the amazing blindness of the human race - blindness of lust, greed, ambition -
5. Nearing the end - He is turning from earth to heaven - the Cross is becoming the Coronation - remember, He died to live again - He was only moving - Mayfield "loose in the world, lady -
6. We are facing a living person tonight - He is going away - the empires have risen and fallen - millions have lived and died - and the world has stumbled on - but He shall return - old legend "Thorshadtt have no rest" - either that - or in life and death - "Father into Thy hands" -
7. Hyacinth? Hyacinth Clay "Somebody gone by under the tree" - Well I am speaking of it tonight - that Somebody has gone by -

"I love, O Cross, thy shadow."

Problems of  
Christianity

Good Friday  
1939

For

## It is Finished.

1. At our Concordia Sea - radio station - a large illuminated cross - moon sinking behind it - the Cross triumphant -
2. The last few moments - quiet - even noise become still when death comes - suddenly - the last word - the crack of doom - had they lost - yes they had - ~~stolen~~ - yes; nails forged into the sceptre; wounds clothe Him with the purple of empire - He had won! The world was changed - and all men would now trust decide - no neutrality - either a stone of stumbling or the way to heaven -
3. It is finished! Victory - look at the world about you - testimony to His continuing power - they cannot leave Him alone - Men do not hate the deed - Napoleon - Let's be clear - two kinds of faith in the world - saving faith - protesting faith -
4. It is finished! Nothing is finished! - Look around you - off He swings across the hills into eternity - "Lo, I am with you" - goodbye to our eyes, but not to us - Yes, it is finished, everything else is done - now up to you -
5. It is finished! Sometime - toward twilight - we are going to be told - put away our things - the blocks - the patchwork - all our little treasures - to say our prayers and go to sleep -
6. And then in the morning - the great morning of God - we shall see something very splendid & very beautiful - flaming & glowing against the walls of heaven - all our little "things" cleaned, glorified & transfigured - finished for us - then we shall know -
7. And now - between now & then - how to live - living stone - servant - the last sign of the blood shed of the children of the Father

I have, O God,